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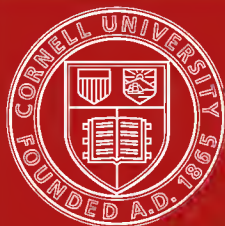
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SALEM ATHENÆUM

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FOR THE SALEM ATHENÆUM
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
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THE
SALEM ATHENÆUM

1810-1910

BY
JOSEPH N. ASHTON

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
1917

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Author's
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The preparation and publication of this history was authorized by the Proprietors of the Athenæum at the Centennial in 1910. The work of preparation was completed soon after, but circumstances have deferred its publication to the present time.

J. N. A.

SALEM ATHENÆUM

The Salem Athenæum was founded in the year Eighteen Hundred Ten. Salem was then a town of between twelve and thirteen thousand inhabitants. Commercially it was an important place, widely known for its extensive trade. Its mariners navigated the seas in every quarter of the globe, and its ships, returning, sailed into the harbor bearing valuable cargoes from every continent; in 1810 there were one hundred and sixty-six foreign entries into its port. But commercial enterprise and adventure did not preclude attention to intellectual development and the acquisition of knowledge. In this year there were twenty-two Salem boys in college,—thirteen at Harvard, four at Dartmouth, three at Bowdoin, and two at Brown. In the seaport town itself there were two libraries, each of which had had long and distinctive life,—the Social Library, formed in 1760, and the Philosophical Library, formed in 1781.

It was as successor to these two libraries that the Athenæum came into being. The collections of these societies originating in Colonial and Revolutionary days and the interest in learning and literature they had fostered, constituted the basis upon which the Athenæum was established. Their traditions were inherited by it, and in it their ideals were blended. Moreover, there was continuity of personnel as well as of property, for the initiating founders of the Athenæum were for the most part

persons who had been active in promoting the earlier societies. In 1810 the early libraries terminated their individual existences; their shares were bought by the Athenæum and their books transferred to it.

But the Salem Athenæum was not merely a union of the Social and Philosophical Libraries. It was far more. It was organized with nearly twice the number of members of these early libraries combined, and with about three times their funds and resources. The Social Library had thirty-nine members and the Philosophical twelve. Eight persons were members of both associations, so that the combined constituency of these earlier societies was forty-three. The number of original proprietors of the Athenæum, however, was eighty-two. And in material matters also, the Athenæum was in marked advance over the earlier organizations. For, whereas the value of the libraries of the earlier societies was estimated to be twenty-five hundred dollars, — the amount paid by the Athenæum for them, — the property of the Athenæum at the time of its foundation was more than three times that amount. The Athenæum was thus established on a scale distinctly larger than that of its antecedents and with a range of influence much wider.

The act incorporating the Athenæum was approved by Governor Gore, March 6, 1810, and on April 11 of that year the first meeting of the Proprietors was held. At this meeting it was voted that the shares of the Athenæum “be one hundred dollars”, and also that the Athenæum “purchase the Philosophical Library and the Social Library at fifty dollars a share”. For the thirty-nine shares of the Social Library the sum of nineteen hundred and fifty dollars was accordingly paid, and six hundred dollars

for the twelve shares of the Philosophical Library, a total of twenty-five hundred and fifty dollars for the two libraries. Payment for the Athenæum shares was made in two instalments of fifty dollars each, the first due May 23, 1810, and the second August 23, 1810. Eighty persons became proprietors on these terms and two others later by the single payment of the entire sum, one on September 14, 1810 and the other on November 27, 1810. These eighty-two original proprietors of the Athenæum either paid in cash or, by the transmission of their holdings in the earlier libraries, were accredited with the payment of the sum of eight thousand, two hundred dollars. The foundation of the Athenæum was thus greater by more than five thousand dollars than the assets of the Social and Philosophical Libraries combined.

On May 7, 1810, the Trustees appointed John D. Treadwell, Joseph Story, and John Pickering, Jr., a committee to make a list of additional books which they might think desirable for the new library to procure. The committee reported at a meeting on the twenty-first of the same month and thereupon it was voted that "the List of Books reported by the Committee, amounting to about six hundred pounds sterling (including all costs and charges and insurance, except freight and duties in the United States) be purchased in London for the Athenæum." This was the largest single purchase of books ever made by the Library. In addition to this great purchase abroad books were bought of local booksellers, and furthermore somewhat over two hundred dollars in the aggregate were allowed to proprietors for books taken as part payment for shares. In this latter way

a number of valuable books came to the library. At this time too the Athenæum received many books by gift and some valuable papers and documents. The most important of these perhaps were "the two volumes of New England newspapers and other papers of the years 1736-1739" given by Judge Samuel Sewall, great grandson of Judge Samuel Sewall, the witchcraft judge, and diarist, and the donation by Leverett Saltonstall of "one of the DUPLICATES of KING CHARLES' CHARTER of the PROVINCE of the MASSACHUSETTS BAY engrossed on parchment."

In the latter part of May, 1810, the Trustees appointed a committee "to bargain and agree with Messrs. Hathorne and Gray for two rooms in their Central Building on Market street for the use of the Proprietors of the Salem Athenæum for the term of five years"; and in the following month two of their number were delegated "to employ some person to make Boxes and Cases for the books belonging to the Athenæum, and also to procure tables, chairs and other necessary articles for the Library and Reading Room." From the fact that some of the early meetings of the Trustees are recorded as having been held "at the Social Library Room in the Central Building" it would seem not unlikely that the Athenæum secured for itself this room of the Social Library and another adjoining it; but unfortunately the records of the Athenæum do not contain evidence to establish the identity of the rooms used by the two societies. That the Athenæum did take the rooms occupied by the Social Library is however asserted in statements regarding the library made at a much later date.

On Wednesday, July 11, 1810, the library began its active life. On that day the rooms in the Central Building on Market (now Central) street which had been leased by the Trustees were opened for the use of the Proprietors and the books of the Athenæum became available for readers at the library and for circulation. Thereafter the Proprietors had access to rooms and books every day, Sunday excepted, "from nine in the morning till sunset". In announcing the opening of the library in the Salem Gazette of July 10, 1810, it is stated that the Librarian would be present between the hours of two and three in the afternoon.

The books ordered from abroad in May, 1810, came in due season, for on July 31, 1810, Timothy Williams was paid \$1500 on this account and on September 4, 1810, a balance of \$1140. These purchases must have arrived in Salem and have been in use by Thanksgiving time of that year as the Trustees voted at their meeting November 12, 1810, "that the trunks, etc., in which the books were imported from London be disposed of to Mr. John Jenks at two dollars each."

The final act in instituting the Athenæum was the making of a catalogue, provision for preparing and printing which was made soon after the accession of the books from London. Accordingly in 1811 the first catalogue of the Athenæum appeared. This was a pamphlet of seventy-two pages and contained 2700 titles, series of volumes such as encyclopedias, transactions, and magazines, each counting only as one title. The books were listed chiefly according to author, and the date and place of publication of each book was given. A feature of this catalogue was

the leaving of a blank space after each alphabetical group for the insertion of additions. A copy of the catalogue was presented to each proprietor.

The first years of the Athenæum were marked by prosperity and growth. In them its body of proprietors was considerably enlarged and its store of books increased. Between 1810 and 1824 fifteen additional proprietors were admitted; one in 1811, one in 1813, three in 1814, three in 1815, four in 1816, one in 1819, one in 1821, and one in 1823. All the new members paid one hundred dollars for their shares, except the one admitted in 1821 and the one admitted in 1823. Each of these paid one hundred and fifty dollars. The proceeds from the sale of these shares, aggregating sixteen hundred dollars and averaging over one hundred dollars a year, became directly available for the support and increase of the library in addition to the amount annually derived from assessments for that purpose. This first period in the history of the Athenæum, it should be noted, was clearly a continuation and completion of the process of establishing the institution rather than an expression or result of any new tendency or condition.

In 1815, at the expiration of the lease of the rooms in the Central Building, the library was removed to Essex Place, a building on Essex street at the head of Central street. Here it remained ten years. In 1825 rooms were secured over the Salem Bank in a building on the site of the present Downing block on Essex street. The Athenæum remained here sixteen years, and in 1841 moved to Lawrence Place, at the corner of Washington and Front streets, where it continued until 1857.

- That the second Instalment of fifty dollars on each share in the Salem Athenaeum shall be paid on or before the twenty third day of August next.

That this meeting be adjourned to Saturday the twelfth instant at three o'clock P. M. at the Social Library Room in the Central Buildings -

E. A. Holyoke
John D. Treadwell
Sam. Putnam

Joseph Stone

Moses Little
W. Lynde Phibes
Nathan Bowditch
Jr. Pickering Jr.

The records of the early meetings of the Trustees were signed by all those present. A rule requiring this was adopted at the first meeting, April 23, 1810, and was repealed at the seventh meeting, July 13, 1810.

During its location in these various buildings, or "places", the daily conduct of the library was simple in the extreme. The rooms were unlocked by the janitor upon his arrival in the morning or at latest by nine o'clock, the stated time for opening; the librarian was on duty one hour during the day; and soon after "sunset", the specified time for closing, the janitor completed the routine work of the day by making the rooms fast for the night. At first the librarian's hour was from two to three in the afternoon, but from 1811 to 1857 it was from twelve to one. The proprietors used both rooms and books freely, leaving on the Librarian's desk memorandums of books taken or returned during the hours he was not in attendance. To be discriminating and critical with regard to books was not a requisite of the librarian; the duties of the office were chiefly clerical, and the salary was slight,—twenty-five dollars a year from 1810 to 1843, when it was increased to fifty dollars. The position was not infrequently held by young men recently graduated from college. As might be expected in these circumstances tenures were short; no less than seventeen appointments were made to the position in the thirty years from 1810 to 1840.

In the course of years some slight modifications were made in the by-laws and regulations. Beginning with 1834 the library was closed between the hours of one and two; and about 1840 a rule was made that "no books be allowed to be taken from the Library except in the presence of the Librarian or his substitute." An attempt was made to enforce this rule, but trustworthy evidence and tradition make it clear that its enforcement was only tempo-

rary and short-lived and that the practice above described continued to prevail.

Lax though this method of conducting the library was, it nevertheless seems to have been tolerably satisfactory to the proprietors. No complaints were entered, nor were any suggestions of change made by them. Some unhappy incidents, however, resulted. In 1814, and again in 1824, valuable plates were cut from certain volumes in the library, and moreover from time to time in the course of years books were lost sight of through carelessness and inattention. Lists of such missing books were printed in 1824 and in 1839, the latter containing one hundred and twelve titles. That there should have been some untoward happenings, some loss of books under such loose management is not surprising. Indeed, the surprising thing is that matters went as well as they did through these years of slight supervision. Not until 1857 was the library placed in the charge of a constant attendant.

The first dozen years or more of the life of the Athenæum had been a period of growth and prosperity. In 1827 a second period began. In this year the institution fell into debt and the proprietors thereupon authorized the Trustees to borrow "any sum of money not exceeding five hundred dollars." The purchase of all books, excepting the regular periodical journals, was suspended and the Treasurer was instructed to sell shares upon which assessments were overdue. In the next year, however, it became possible to resume the purchase and importation of books; but the period of growth and prosperity had nevertheless come to a close and a period of depression had been entered upon.

Prior to 1827, three shares had in the course of seven years been sold for assessments, but after that date such sales became rather frequent. In the ten years from 1827 to 1837 fifteen shares were sold at auction for arrears. In 1835 the Athenæum began to buy delinquent shares, the Proprietors at the annual meeting in that year having authorized the Trustees "to buy at their discretion any share, for sale, of the Athenæum to be the property of the Athenæum". On August 27, 1835, six shares were accordingly bought by the Corporation for from fourteen dollars, the amount due for assessments, to seventeen dollars. These were inactive from 1835 to 1840. In the latter year the Treasurer was given permission "to lease shares in the Library at three dollars per annum to any who will pay the annual assessments". Five of the shares held in the treasury, however, were sold subsequently in the year, and only one remained to be so leased. In 1843 the Athenæum again began to contract the number of its shares, buying in that year four upon which assessments had become overdue. Sums ranging from eight to ten and a half dollars were paid for these. In 1847 four more shares were bought for assessments. At length, in the year 1850, fifteen shares so acquired were held in the treasury. Those were the dark days of the Athenæum, and it was realized that they were such. In 1848 a committee was appointed "to consider what means may be suggested to render the institution more generally useful"; at the annual meeting in 1849 the Treasurer was authorized "to sell the shares belonging to the Corporation at a sum not less than ten dollars"; and at this meeting the Proprietors furthermore created

the possibility of subscribers by authorizing the Trustees "to permit non-proprietors to take books from the library as proprietors, subject to the same conditions, etc., on payment of six dollars per annum or three dollars for six months". Happily soon after 1850 the skies began to brighten and before 1854 the shareholders became nearly as numerous as they had been prior to 1827.

So the records run; but to interpret them aright many facts which do not appear in them must be borne in mind. For these years, far from being a period of inaction, were really years of increasing intellectual activity in the community; new interests received attention, the field of activity was enlarged, and new associations were formed to embody the development.

In 1821 a historical association, the Essex Historical Society, was formed in Salem. It had as its object "the collection and preservation of authentic memorials relating to the civil history of the county of Essex, and the eminent men who had resided within its limits; also all facts relating to its natural history and topography". The founders of the society were for the most part members of the Athenæum; its first president was the president of the Athenæum, and its successive presidents also were, almost invariably, persons who at the same time held the presidency of the Athenæum. The membership of this society was always comparatively small.

An organization which attracted a large following, however, was the Salem Lyceum, formed in 1830. For more than fifty years this association conducted in Salem series of lectures on the widest variety of

subjects. The list of lectures, both general and technical, in the first fifty courses, (1830-1879), is indeed impressive; so too is the list of lecturers,—John Quincy Adams, Horace Mann, Daniel Webster, Edward Everett, Rufus Choate, Ralph Waldo Emerson, George Bancroft, Samuel Gridley Howe, Robert C. Winthrop, Theodore Parker, Wendell Phillips, Jared Sparks, Mark Hopkins, John S. Dwight, Charles Sumner, Asa Gray, Louis Agassiz, John B. Gough, Bayard Taylor, Henry Ward Beecher, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edward Everett Hale, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and James Russell Lowell. There were about twenty lectures each winter. At first the speakers were mostly residents of Salem, but as years went on noted men from outside preponderated. Ralph Waldo Emerson was their most frequent lecturer, giving thirty-three lectures in the course of the thirty-six years from 1835 to 1871. Other frequent lecturers of wide repute were: Wendell Phillips (16), Theodore Parker (12), Louis Agassiz (10), Henry Ward Beecher (8), Oliver Wendell Holmes (7), and Horace Mann (7). John Quincy Adams and Daniel Webster each came to Salem twice to address the Lyceum.

At first the Lyceum held its lectures in churches,—in the Methodist meeting-house on Sewall street and in the Universalist meeting-house on Rust street. This, however, was merely an expedient, for within a twelvemonth after its inception the association had erected a building for its own special purpose, a wooden building on Church street a few doors from Washington street, having an auditorium in the form of an ancient Roman theatre. The hall was first used January 20, 1831.

Soon after the formation of the Lyceum another association was formed in Salem embodying still another phase of intellectual interest, The Essex County Natural History Society. This society, unlike the two just mentioned, was, as its name indicates, distinctly a county organization. Its first president was a resident of Danvers, and its vice presidents came from Ipswich and Bradford. The society was formed in 1833 and was incorporated in 1836. Though a county organization, its home was in Salem; here were its cabinet and its library. In 1848 this society united with the Essex Historical Society to form the Essex Institute.

The organization of these societies, devoted to kindred and allied purposes and appealing largely to the same constituency, naturally tended to diminish the support given the Athenæum. Added to this was the fact that the initial impulse which had organized and governed the Athenæum had by 1827 nearly spent itself. Changes had inevitably taken place in the proprietary body, and the original board of trustees had become seriously invaded by death, retirement, and removal from town. In 1823 Nathaniel Bowditch had removed to Boston and the Athenæum had in consequence lost his "faithful and indefatigable services as a Trustee". In the same year Dr. Benjamin Lynde Oliver had declined re-election, and Dr. John D. Treadwell in the following year. In 1827 Nathaniel Silsbee, who had been elected United States Senator from Massachusetts, retired from the board, as did also Mr. John Pickering, who had moved to Boston. There now remained of the original board in service only Dr. Edward A. Holyoke, the President, then in his hundredth year,

and Hon. Joseph Story, who was in Washington a portion of each year where he was making a record of distinction on the Supreme Bench second only in the annals of our Government to that of the great Chief Justice with whom he was so long associated. Dr. Holyoke died in 1829; and in 1830 Justice Story, having in the preceding year been appointed professor of law at Harvard and on that account having moved to Cambridge, retired from the board of trustees of the Athenæum. The task presented to the group of trustees who succeeded the original board was a difficult one, but they proved themselves faithful and efficient. Under their direction the library rendered valuable service. The decline in membership which took place at this time was not caused by their action or by their inaction, neither could it have been prevented by them.

Though this period from 1827 to 1854 was one of financial stress and of somewhat diminished vigor, yet it was during this time that the Athenæum was nourishing Hawthorne from its literary and historical lore,—Nathaniel Hawthorne was a proprietor from 1828 to 1839 and again from 1848 to 1850,—and it was also during this period that the Athenæum received its first bequests.

In 1838 the sum of one thousand dollars was bequeathed to the Athenæum by Nathaniel Bowditch, LL. D., F. R. S., one of the founders of the institution and a member of the original board of trustees. The gift was made in the following words:

“It is well known that the valuable library of the celebrated Dr. Richard Kirwan, was, during the Revolutionary war, captured in the British Channel, on its way to Ireland, by a Beverly Privateer; and that by the liberal and enlightened views of the owners of the vessel, the library thus captured, was sold at a very low rate; and

in this manner was laid the foundation, upon which have been successfully established the Philosophical Library, so called, and the present Salem Athenæum. Thus, in early life, I found near me a better collection of philosophical and scientific books than could be found in any other part of the United States nearer than Philadelphia. And by the kindness of its proprietors I was permitted freely to take books from that library, and to consult and study them at pleasure. This inestimable advantage has made me deeply a debtor to the Athenæum; and I do therefore give to that Institution the sum of one thousand dollars, the income thereof to be forever applied to the promotion of its objects, and the extension of its usefulness.”

In 1838 also, ten proprietors united in subscribing for a copy of Audubon’s Plates of “The Birds of America” in four folio volumes, and presented this famous work to the Athenæum.

The second bequest to the Athenæum came in 1846 by the will of Miss Mehitabel Higginson, who made the following designation:—

“I give and bequeath to the Proprietors of the Salem Athenæum the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and upon the express condition, that the said sum shall be put at interest and that said interest shall be annually appropriated for the purchase of books in the French, Italian, German, Spanish and other foreign Languages, at the discretion of the Trustees—always giving the preference to such works of History, Voyages, Travels, and works of general Literature and Science as will be most useful to persons studying those Languages.”

In 1851 the Athenæum received its third bequest, one thousand dollars by the will of Miss Susan[na] Burley. This was granted as follows:—

“I give to the Salem Athenæum one thousand dollars, to be paid in one year after my decease by my executors and I direct that three fifths parts of said sum be appropriated by the Trustees to the purchase of rare and esteemed Theological works, and the remaining two fifths parts thereof to be appropriated to the purchase of books in foreign languages.”

Up to 1850 the Athenæum had published five complete catalogues. The first, issued in 1811, contained 2700 titles, while the fifth, issued in 1842, contained nine thousand. In the interval between the publication of these, others were printed, in 1818, 1826, and 1834. Beginning in 1833 annual supplements were issued for nearly a score of years.

The catalogue of 1842 is particularly interesting in that in it the books are for the first time classified according to subject. There are five chief divisions: (1) Theology, (2) Jurisprudence, Government and Politics, (3) Sciences and Arts, (4) Belles Lettres, and (5) History. Theology occupies fifteen pages, Jurisprudence seven, Sciences and Art sixteen, Belles Lettres eighteen, and History thirty-five. Seriousness preponderates. Fiction is a sub-section under Belles Lettres and fills six pages. The great modern out-put of novels, it should be recalled, was at that time just beginning. Small though this section is, it nevertheless includes many of the then recent and contemporary writers,—Scott, Dickens, Fenimore Cooper, and Washington Irving. Books of travel were then very much in popular favor, and accordingly the sub-section under History entitled Voyages and Travel is large, filling ten pages and including travels in Siberia, Paraguay, Nubia, Siam, and other remote lands. The spirit of the age is furthermore reflected in the classifications. Addison's *Spectator*, for instance, is listed under Moral Philosophy, apparently being considered more important then as a book of precepts than as a work of literature. The dominance of the theological idea of design in the thought of the age is clearly seen in this catalogue: works with the following titles

are found under Natural Religion:—Buckland, On Geology and Mineralogy; Kirby, History and Instincts of Insects, (referred to by Hawthorne in his American Note Books); Roget, On Animal and Vegetable Physiology; and Prout, Chemistry, Meteorology, and the Function of Digestion.

A third period in the history of the Athenæum had its beginning in the year of 1854. In this year the institution received its largest bequest,—the sum of thirty thousand dollars by the will of Miss Caroline Plummer, designated to provide a building for the Athenæum. The gift was made in memory of her brother, Ernestus Augustus Plummer, who was born November 2, 1781 and died September 28, 1823. He had been a proprietor from 1814 to 1818 and again from 1820 to the time of his death. His share was retained by his sister until her death, May 15, 1854. In addition to providing a building for the Athenæum Miss Plummer by her will founded the Plummer Professorship of Christian Morals in Harvard University and established in Salem the Plummer Farm School of Reform for Boys.

The clause in Miss Plummer's will granting the bequest to the Athenæum is as follows:—

“I give and bequeath to the Proprietors of the Salem Athenæum the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars, directing said bequest to be very distinctly recorded as a gift from my beloved brother Ernestus A. Plummer, I making the bequest in conformity to what I think would have been his wish, he having felt a deep interest in the welfare of this literary institution, and the observatory having been furnished with large additional funds. The said sum of thirty thousand dollars shall be appropriated to the purchasing a piece of land in some central and convenient spot in the City of Salem, and for building thereon a safe and elegant building of brick or stone to be employed for the purpose of depositing the books belonging



PLUMMER HALL, 1857

to said Corporation, with liberty also to have the rooms thereof used for meetings of any scientific or literary institutions, or for the deposite of any works of art or natural productions. Should said library ever become a public one this bequest shall not be forfeited. I expressly prohibit any part of said building or its cellar from being used as a public or private office of business or place for the sale or deposits of merchandise, being unwilling that said building should be used for any purposes which might endanger by fire the valuable library therein contained. The said building to be erected and the books belonging to the said Corporation to be deposited in it within three years from the time of receiving the legacy or of my decease. Said building to be kept constantly insured."

A site was selected and purchased in 1855 and plans for the construction of a building were taken under consideration. In her will Miss Plummer had granted liberty "to have the rooms thereof (of the building) used for meetings of any scientific or literary institutions, or for the deposite of works of art or natural productions," and the question arose as to whether the Athenæum should erect a building to meet its own needs only or one which would afford room also for the Essex Institute. After much discussion the Proprietors voted to erect a building of two stories which would accommodate both itself and the Essex Institute. The work of construction was begun in 1856 and the building was dedicated in October of the following year. Mr. Enoch Fuller was the architect. It was a structure of brick and freestone, Its two stories were alike in plan,—a central entrance hall with a single room on either side, and a large hall in the rear occupying about two-thirds of the entire floor space. The Athenæum reserved the upper floor of the building for its own use. Here in the large hall the major portion of its library was placed. Shelving

was provided by cases built against the walls and in triangular alcoves which extended into the hall on either side. The inner apices of these alcoves terminated in ornamental columns, which formed an inner hall area. The alcoves were divided into two stories, but the columns extended from floor to roof. With its series of stately Corinthian columns supporting a high and slightly vaulted ceiling and its shelved walls and well-disposed alcoves filled with books, it was a library hall of considerable distinction. Structurally it was the most important room in the building. It was entered however only through the front corner rooms. One of these, that to the left of the entrance hallway, was used by the Athenæum as its reading room. Here were to be found the Librarian's desk (on a slightly raised platform), the catalogue, books of reference, the current magazines, and the latest additions to the library. The use of the lower floor and some additional shelf room on the upper floor was assigned to the Essex Institute. At the time of the occupancy of Plummer Hall the Essex South District Medical Society, organized in 1805, was admitted to the use of a portion of the building for the deposit of its library, and in 1862 the Essex Agricultural Society, organized in 1818, was given room for its library. These collections were contained in the room at the right of the hallway on the second story, opposite the reading room of the Athenæum. The hall on the lower floor, controlled by the Essex Institute, was frequently used for public lectures and concerts. Its location, on the first floor, directly accessible from the hallway, made it more available for such purposes than the hall above; it was, however, less

interesting architecturally than that, and was five feet less in height.

The building was dedicated October 6, 1857, and the addresses delivered on that occasion, together with a memoir of the Plummer family, were published in a single pamphlet in the following year. In 1858 the Athenæum also issued a volume containing a catalogue of the books in the library, the by-laws, and a brief historical sketch of the institution.

The acquisition of a building brought a new era in the history of the Athenæum. This period, actively entered upon in 1857, continued until 1907, exactly fifty years. The bringing together of the various intellectual activities into one building gave rise to a new and fundamental problem, that of the permanent individuality and the ultimate relationship of the various institutions and interests in Salem, literary, scientific, and historical. The characteristic features of this period accordingly appear under two distinct aspects: first, the determination of the relationship of the Athenæum to other institutions; and second, the development of the institution itself. The correlation of the various interests was the leading problem and came to be the dominant feature of the period. It will therefore be considered first.

Miss Plummer's will, through the permissions therein granted, anticipated the needs and made provision for the solution of the more important problems of the period following her bequest. The Athenæum was designated by her as the individual beneficiary, but regard was shown for other interests of a kindred sort. In 1799 an interesting and important organization had been established in Salem, the East India Marine Society. This association had

three objects: to assist its own indigent members; "to collect such facts and observations as tend to the improvement and security of navigation;" and "to form a museum of natural and artificial curiosities, particularly such as are to be found beyond Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn". As to membership the by-laws provided that "any person shall be eligible as a member of this society, who shall actually have navigated the seas near the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn, either as master or commander, or as a factor or supercargo of any vessel belonging to Salem, or, if a resident in Salem, of any vessel belonging to any port in the United States". The museum collected by this society was a most remarkable one. In 1821, as has already been noted, the Essex Historical Society had been formed in Salem, and in 1833 residents of Essex County interested in natural history had organized the Essex County Historical Society with Salem as its place of meeting. These two societies were united in 1848 to form the Essex Institute. Consideration for these interests is in evidence in Miss Plummer's permission "to have the rooms thereof (of the building) used for meetings of any scientific or literary institutions, or for the deposit of any works of art or natural productions". In planning their building the Proprietors of the Athenæum had generously provided room for the library and museum of the Essex Institute. In 1867 a most important event took place. In this year Mr. George Peabody founded the Peabody Academy of Science (Peabody Museum of Salem), giving funds for the prosecution of work in natural history,—forty thousand dollars for a building and one hundred thousand

dollars as endowment. At this time the Essex Institute relinquished its scientific work and committed its collections of specimens of natural history to the care of the new institution, as did also the East India Marine Society. By the substantial bequest of Mr. Peabody scientific study in Salem acquired an abode of its own and was no longer in need of the protecting roof of the Athenæum. It has since lived its life by itself and not associated or conjoined with other activities.

Another provision in Miss Plummer's will mentions specifically an interest then in its infancy which has since become one of the notable institutions in American life, the public library. During this period of the Athenæum's history, from 1857 to 1907, the public library developed and acquired a function in the community second educationally only to the public schools. The provision in Miss Plummer's will that "should said library ever become a public one this bequest shall not be forfeited" evinced intimate acquaintance with contemporary movements and wise foresight. In 1848 the Massachusetts Legislature had empowered the City of Boston to raise five thousand dollars yearly for the support of a public library and in 1854 the present Public Library was opened. Meanwhile, in 1851, the Legislature had extended the act to include all other cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The first effort to establish a free public library in Salem was made in 1873. In this year the mayor brought the matter to the front in his inaugural address, and much consideration was given to the matter. The friendly interest of the Athenæum is shown by a vote of the Proprietors in May, 1873, and repeated the next year,

“that the subject of a Free Library be referred to the Trustees with authority to confer with the City Council and with other committees and report the results”. But this effort to consolidate the existing libraries in Salem and establish a municipal one failed. Several years later, the project was revived. At their annual meeting in 1885, the Proprietors voted to “consent to the use of said (their) library as a portion of a Public Library for the City of Salem, provided that a satisfactory plan be entered into with such other Library associations of the city to unite with the Athenæum for this purpose on conditions acceptable to all”. The plan devised at this time contemplated the remodelling of Plummer Hall and the union of the libraries of the Athenæum, the Essex Institute, and of two minor libraries, that of the Salem Mechanic Association, organized in 1817, and that of the Salem Fraternity, organized in 1869. This effort was not directly successful, but it shortly led to a definite and tangible result. In December, 1887, the problem was solved by the gift of property which would serve as a home for a municipal library which the city was at that time willing and ready to create, and on July 8, 1889 the present Public Library on upper Essex street was opened. Thus terminated the possibility of the absorption or obscuration of the Athenæum by union or consolidation to form a public library.

One more relationship remained to be determined in this period—that of the Athenæum and the Essex Institute. This problem, the last to be solved, was the first in point of origin. Plummer Hall had been built to meet the needs of both institutions, and in this fact is to be found the source of that

uncertainty which characterized the period. By the very nature of things the co-occupation of Plummer Hall by the Athenæum and the Essex Institute as planned in 1857 could not really be permanent, for both were growing institutions. The Essex Institute, especially, because of its extensive collection of pamphlets and of the large amount of space required for the preservation and display of its accumulations of articles of historic interest, became constantly in need of more room. In 1886 the Institute purchased the Daland estate adjoining Plummer Hall; it continued, however, in the use of the room which had been provided for it in Plummer Hall. In 1900 still more room was needed by the Institute and its Directors sought to purchase Plummer Hall, but the negotiations came to naught. Three years later they again approached the Athenæum with regard to the matter, and in 1905 Plummer Hall was sold to the Essex Institute. The Athenæum then secured a site at 339 Essex street and erected thereon a new Plummer Hall for its own exclusive use. The new building was completed in May, 1907 and in the following month the library was moved from the first Plummer Hall, which then came into the full possession of the Essex Institute.

By this transaction in 1907 the period of drifting and uncertainty, begun in 1857, was brought to a close,—a period long in duration and slow in action, but of fundamental and far-reaching importance for the future. Henceforth the various societies in Salem concerned with letters, science, and history were to maintain each a separate and distinctive existence and organization.

The development of the Athenæum during these

years from 1857 to 1907 was fairly normal. The events just set forth as constituting the salient feature of this period giving it its character and marking its bounds, appear as such only in retrospect. To the men and women of that time they were rather as passing incidents, serious and acute to be sure, but so only for the time being. Nothing need necessarily have come from them. The changes which did take place were fortuitous; at no stage in the course of events could one have forecast what the outcome would be, for the determining factors in the process were for the most part derived from personal interest and personal action. So it came about that the Athenæum continued through these many years to render genuine and vital service in the community, though to a far less extent than it was really capable of giving; and thereby it resulted that this period in the life of the Athenæum, though overcast and affected by the uncertainty which characterized it, was otherwise fairly normal.

When, in 1857, the Athenæum moved from its quarters in Lawrence Place to Plummer Hall, the membership was practically as large as it had ever been. There were at this time ninety-six proprietors, one share being then in the treasury. Of these ninety-seven shares eighty-two had been issued in 1810, and fifteen in the dozen years immediately following. The acquisition and occupation of a large and commodious building seemed to be an opportune time for extending the usefulness of the Library, and accordingly an effort was made at this time to increase its constituency. At the first annual meeting held in the new building, in May 1858, it was voted "that the Trustees be authorized

to sell additional shares at twenty dollars each.” But to this vote there was no response, for the times were most unpropitious. The financial panic of 1857 had seriously affected the fortunes of many Salem families. Then came the Civil War, and finally the period of recovery from its economic and financial disturbances. It was not until well into the seventies that normal conditions again prevailed. The movement in 1873 to establish a public library in Salem may be taken as an indication of returning interest in books and reading. The founding by Mr. George Peabody of the Academy of Science in 1867 was not only a boon to one branch of study; it also had a stimulating effect on the general spirit of the community.

The era from 1857 to 1907 falls clearly into three divisions: first came this period of inaction from 1857 to 1873; then the period of agitation with reference to establishing a public library, from 1873 to 1889; and finally the period in which the Essex Institute, under the roof of the Athenæum and close beside it, grew very rapidly while the Athenæum itself remained stationary. Now, if we reckon the third period as ending with the sale of Plummer Hall to the Institute in 1905, all these periods, curiously enough, were of exactly the same length, sixteen years each. The two years taken up in planning and erecting the new Plummer Hall completed the fifty years which comprise the entire period.

The use of a separate building in 1857 necessitated re-arrangement in the routine management of the library. It became necessary to have someone in attendance during all the time the library was open. In 1858 the matter of devising “some plan for the

permanent employment of a librarian and for the care of the Library" was taken under consideration. Temporary arrangements were made in this and the two following years, and in 1861 a permanent librarian "with fixed compensation, duties, etc.," was appointed. Miss E. K. Roberts was the first Librarian under this plan, and since her appointment there have been but four other Librarians of the Athenæum.

As a consequence of the change in the character and extent of the librarian's service, library hours were changed at the time of the occupancy of Plummer Hall. The hours appointed were from nine to one and from two to five. Since 1857 these have been varied somewhat. The hour of opening in the morning has at different times been half past eight, quarter before nine, and nine o'clock; that of afternoon closing has been either five or six. For a number of years the library was closed at five in winter and at six in summer. In May, 1884 the position of assistant librarian was created and noon closing was done away with. Since 1904 the hours of the library have been from nine in the morning to six in the afternoon. For the last two years the library has also been open on Sunday afternoons from the first of October to the first of June and on certain legal holidays.

The number of volumes in the library in 1857 was about eleven thousand. To these additions have steadily been made through annual appropriations, and in the course of the fifty years since 1857 the collection has more than doubled. In the Historical Sketch of Salem published in 1879 the number of volumes was estimated to be about sixteen thousand,

and in a leaflet of information issued by the Athenæum in 1890 it was placed at twenty-one thousand, five hundred. At the time of the centennial in 1910 the library was found by actual count to comprise 26,136 volumes.

Information regarding additions to the library has now for many years been furnished the proprietors by means of printed monthly lists. At first these lists were kept at the library for distribution, but since 1902 they have been sent to every proprietor and subscriber each month.

With the large increase in the size of libraries generally in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and more especially because of the great size attained by the larger ones, the printed pamphlet form of catalogue became outgrown. The catalogue which the Athenæum issued in 1858 was the last it printed. Interleaved with new accessions, it was used in the library for twenty-five years, by the end of which time it had become imperfect and had fallen into considerable confusion, and its revision was urgent. In 1883 needed action was taken and the work of transition from the old to a new method of cataloging was begun. In this year the library was re-classified and a new manuscript catalogue in book form was made for temporary use. In the next year work was begun on a card catalogue of the library, and in 1889 the present card catalogue was completed and put into use. This has been kept up and revised, and is in excellent condition. Still further improvement was made in the years 1896, 1897 and 1898, when the library was classified according to the Dewey decimal system. Before this time the so-called "fixed position" system had been used. In

this the shelves were numbered and the books, arranged according to subject, were catalogued by the number of the shelf on which they were to be found. In the new system subjects and authors, and not shelves, are fundamental; the books are labelled according to a decimal and alphabetic plan wherein the class and sub-class is designated by means of numbers used on a decimal basis and the author by his initial letter and a subsidiary numeral. The new method, though not very complicated, classifies the books more closely than the former; it is much more flexible in daily use; and with it the library, evergrowing as every living library must, expands organically and systematically.

The regulations of the Athenæum regarding the use of the library have always been liberal. This is true of it both as a circulating library and as a reading room. Proprietors have in general been privileged to have four books out at a time, and to retain them four weeks. This period, however, is for the most part nominal, as books may be retained under sanction of the by-laws until notice is received that they are desired by another member. The term for new books, naturally shorter, is limited to two weeks. At the library the proprietors have always enjoyed free access to the shelves—wire netting was never used by the Athenæum. In one instance only has restraint been put upon the use of its books. In 1847, in the period when classical studies were paramount in the college curriculum, a vote was passed closing up certain avenues of literary achievement: in the records under date of May 19, 1847, is to be found the following order: "That the Translations of the Classical authors be placed under lock and

key,"— a cruel restriction for aspiring but indolent college youth!

Until within recent years the old-fashioned, universal practice of calling in all the books once a year has been maintained by the Athenæum. Every book was required under penalty to be returned in May one week before the annual meeting, and during this week shelf lists were read, the books were examined, and a general Spring house-cleaning was accomplished. Meanwhile the library was closed to proprietors. About 1895 this practice was discontinued. Now, by means of the shelf lists supplemented by the loan list, the inspection of the library is effected without interrupting its operation, and all cleaning is planned so as to be done without interfering with the service of the library.

During the period from 1857 to 1907 an interesting episode developed in the life of the Athenæum. It arose in rather an unexpected way. From 1876 to 1881 the Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science conducted a summer school of biology in Salem. This had an average attendance of twenty-five students, and for the use of these students the Academy secured the control of six or more shares of the Athenæum. In 1882, the year after the school was discontinued, the Academy further purchased three more shares, which the Proprietors had authorized the issuance of in 1876. Subsequently, from time to time, other shares were secured by the Academy until twenty-four had been acquired. These the Academy continued to hold for a period of years, renting them privately the meantime. In 1903 the Trustees of the Athenæum bought these twenty-four shares in a block, at fifteen dollars a share, and re-

sold them within a year or two to individuals. The change in placement of these shares afforded relief to the Academy and gave stimulation to the Athenæum; the Academy was relieved of the task of subletting, and the Athenæum gained in new membership and inherent vitality.

Apropos of the holding of these shares of the Athenæum by another corporation, it should be stated that the institutions were allied and yet non-competitive, and that they were managed and directed largely by the same persons. Moreover, in the seventies and eighties,—and for that matter in the early nineties as well—Athenæum shares were not in demand. The transformation of the Athenæum into a public library was every now and then under discussion and the possibility of its absorption naturally had a deterrent effect on the vigor of the institution. The future of the Academy was secure; that of the Athenæum was still undetermined.

By the character of their charter the Proprietors of the Athenæum have no personal equity in the property of the institution. The estate is to be “appropriated for the promotion of literature, of the arts and sciences, and not otherwise.” Through their privilege of controlling and directing the property the shareholders are trustees; and through their privilege of use they further become, so to speak, proprietary-trustees. But this is not all. Theirs is also participation in support: they are sustaining members. Assessments for the maintenance and enlargement of the library are an essential feature of the institution and are annually levied on all shares. Provision for them is found in the charter and action in case of their non-payment is therein designated.

At the outset the annual assessment was the only means of meeting the current expenses and enlarging the library. During the early years, when the Athenæum was without a home of its own and had rental to pay, and before it had any productive funds, the annual assessment was considerably more (especially so if we consider the purchasing power of money) than it has been in recent years. From 1810 to 1814 it was five dollars; in 1815 it was ten dollars, and in 1816 eight; from 1817 to 1820 it was again ten dollars, and from 1821 to 1849 seven; since 1849 it has uniformly been five dollars.

Since receiving the bequest which provided a building in 1857 the Athenæum has received several other legacies, some of them inspired by hereditary interest in the institution.

In 1861 Nathaniel Ingersoll Bowditch, a son of Nathaniel Bowditch, left the Athenæum the sum of one thousand dollars. The clause in the will granting this is as follows:—

“I give to the Proprietors of the Salem Athenæum one thousand dollars as a slight mark of regard for my native town.”

By vote of the Trustees this gift was added to the “Bowditch Fund” created by his father in 1838.

In 1879 a bequest came to the Athenæum by the will of William Howes, son of Frederick Howes who was a Proprietor from 1816 to 1853 and a Trustee from 1826 to 1840. This bequest amounted to ten thousand dollars and has been constituted the “Howes Fund.”

In 1889 J. Ingersoll Bowditch, LL.D., another son of Nathaniel Bowditch, remembered the Athenæum in his will, leaving it the sum of one thousand dollars.

The last bequest to the Athenæum in the first century of its history came in 1898 from George Plumer Smith of Philadelphia. This gift increased the assets of the Athenæum by about five thousand dollars and has been set aside by the Trustees and designated the "George Plumer Smith Fund", the income from which is to be devoted to the payment of current expenses.

In the years immediately preceding the establishment of the Public Library the Athenæum, being the principal library in the city, was fairly well used. Its circulation ranged from 6,843 in 1883 to 7,786 in 1887. Few persons, however, desired to become proprietors and a considerable number of the users of the library were annual or semi-annual subscribers. At the time of the opening of the Public Library in 1889 fully half the subscribers of the Athenæum discontinued and the circulation fell perceptibly. To stimulate the lagging interest in the institution a leaflet of information regarding the library was issued in 1890. At this time also the Proprietors took under consideration the lighting of the large hall, but nothing was actually done in the matter. A few years later, between 1895 and 1905, substantial improvement in the condition of the Athenæum was effected through the activity of the Treasurer in renewing the body of proprietors. Of the proprietors in 1910 thirty-one, or nearly one third, became shareholders between the annual meetings of 1895 and 1905. During these ten years there were fifty-nine stock transfers as compared with sixty in the twenty years preceding, or in this single decade almost twice as many as in the two preceding decades. In July 1903, the Trustees instructed the

Treasurer to buy the shares then held by the Peabody Academy of Science which that institution was willing to sell at fifteen dollars a share. Within the next three years the Treasurer sold these twenty-four shares to individuals and the increase thereby made in the number of persons having direct proprietary interest in the Athenæum was highly advantageous in every way. It did much to dispel the lethargy which had rested upon the Athenæum as an institution for so many years.

In 1905, as has been stated, Plummer Hall was sold to the Essex Institute, the Proprietors in November of that year having voted to accept the offer of fifty thousand dollars made by the Essex Institute for the land and building of the Athenæum. At the same meeting the Proprietors empowered the Trustees to purchase a site and erect a building at a cost not exceeding forty thousand dollars. The present site on upper Essex street was finally selected and the sum of fourteen thousand five hundred dollars was paid for the Curwen and the Swedenborgian Church properties. Subsequently the buildings and the organ and pews were sold and the cost of the lot was thereby reduced to thirteen thousand five hundred dollars. The exterior design of "Homewood" in Baltimore, the mansion of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland, was selected by the Trustees and a building modelled after this, save for the wings on either side, which may be added later for the enlargement of the library, was erected at a cost (including the furnishings and a steel stack) of forty-one thousand dollars. The nine thousand dollars remaining from the fifty thousand which the Athenæum had received

from the Essex Institute for the first Plummer Hall were added to the permanent fund and designated as the Caroline Plummer Fund. The reservation of this sum of money and its addition to the fund for general purposes was designed through the interest to be derived therefrom to offset the loss of income hitherto received from the Essex Institute in the form of part payment for heating, lighting, repairs, etc., in consideration of the privilege of the co-occupancy of Plummer Hall granted by the Athenæum.

The largest room in the new Plummer Hall is the reading room. This extends across the entire rear of the building and occupies about one half of the floor area of the first story. Rectangular in shape and simple and symmetrical in design, this room has a distinct and charming individuality. It is cheerful, restful, and singularly beautiful, and is admirably adapted to its purpose. Low cases extending somewhat into the room and terminating in fluted columns reaching to the ceiling, subdivide it into three sections. The tripartite division, however, does not interfere with the sense of unity; rather, it enhances it. From the central division of the reading room the fire-proof stack room is entered. This occupies one entire corner on the front of the building, from basement to roof. In the opposite corner, at the right of the entrance, is a reading room, supplementary to but separate from the main reading room. The books of the library are distributed by classes through these rooms and in the basement under and the room over the main reading room. The present building, without enlargement through the erection of wings found in the original, provides ample shelv-



PLUMMER HALL, 1907

ing space, enough, in fact, to meet the normal growth of the library for a considerable number of years.

As a library building the second Plummer Hall is in most respects far superior to its predecessor. In the first Plummer Hall the library was lodged on the second floor, reached from the entrance hall by a broad but long flight of stairs. The library was contained in a reading room, small and not particularly attractive, and in the large and elegantly proportioned hall. This hall, it is true, was stately and of considerable beauty, but it was not well adapted to library needs. Its triangularly shaped alcoves were not economical of space and were incapable of expansion. Heating the hall through the winter months was beyond the resources of the Athenæum, and facilities for lighting had never been provided, though this improvement had from time to time been considered. Consequently at the time of year when the library was, at least in later years, most used, this largest room of the Athenæum was practically uninhabitable. The new building, on the other hand, affords almost every facility for the best use of the books and the comfort and convenience of the proprietors. Great changes in architectural ideals have taken place during the past fifty years through the effort to secure greater adaptability of buildings to the purpose for which they are to be used. Mr. William G. Rantoul was the architect of the second Plummer Hall.

The new building was dedicated on the evening of October 2, 1907. The address on that occasion was delivered by George E. Woodberry, LL. D., Litt. D., of Beverly. This address was subsequently issued in pamphlet form.

The change of building was most fortunate for the Athenæum. No longer hampered by the disadvantages incident to the former building, the Athenæum now stood forth in its full individuality. To the improvement in the general condition of the society which had gradually been taking place since 1895 through the infusion of new life into its membership, was now added the stimulation derived from the occupation of a beautiful and most convenient building devoted solely to its own purpose. In entering its new building in 1907 the Athenæum entered upon a new era in its history.

Additions to the library during the last ten years have averaged three hundred and twenty books a year. Last year three hundred and ninety-two volumes were added, twenty-five of these being gifts. They were of the following classes:—books of reference, two; bound magazines, fifty-eight; religion, sociology and science, forty-one; history and biography, eighty-five; fiction, one hundred and twenty-eight; literature and art, twenty-seven; books in the French language, fourteen; new copies of old books, thirty-seven. The Athenæum subscribes to thirty-one magazines and periodicals. Last year the circulation of the library was six thousand, four hundred and fifty-four.

The library is open from nine in the morning to six in the afternoon on week days, and from half past two to six o'clock on Sundays from October first to June first and certain legal holidays. Each proprietor and subscriber is entitled to have four books and one periodical in his possession at one time. Books which have been in the library less than one year may be retained only for two weeks.

Unbound numbers of periodicals may circulate after two weeks and may be retained not longer than one week. The annual assessment levied on shares "for current expenses and the increase of the library" has for more than sixty years been five dollars a year. According to the By-laws of 1906 subscribers not to exceed fifty in number may be admitted to the privileges of the Athenæum upon the payment of a sum not less than one and one half times the annual assessment on a share. Since the adoption of these By-laws the annual fee has been seven and a half dollars. At present there are one hundred proprietors of the Athenæum and forty-eight subscribers.

In the month of March 1910 the Athenæum celebrated the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Social Library and its own centennial. A collection of rare and especially interesting books and articles was on exhibition during the entire month. On Tuesday evening, March twenty-eighth, there was a social gathering in Plummer Hall, and on the following evening literary exercises were held in Academy Hall at which Professor Barrett Wendell of Harvard University delivered the address.

At the termination of its first century,—of its first century and a half, if we reckon from its earliest source,—the Athenæum finds itself in a prosperous and stable condition. Its constituency of nearly one hundred and fifty proprietors and subscribers is the largest in its history; for its habitation it has an attractive and adequate building; its productive funds amount to more than forty-six thousand dollars, and yield an annual income of nearly twenty-two hundred dollars. The library itself comprises over twen-

ty-six thousand volumes, all in excellent condition, fully catalogued, and easily accessible. The appropriation for books for the Centennial year, 1910-1911, is seven hundred dollars.

Though now a library for general culture and no longer prominent either for size or contents, the Athenæum is nevertheless an institution of unusual interest historically. Nathaniel Bowditch unquestionably knew all the facts when in making bequest to the Athenæum in 1838 he designated it as having been in his early days "a better collection of philosophical and scientific books than could be found in any other part of the United States nearer than Philadelphia." This distinction of course long ago passed from the Athenæum; but the fact that it once held such a distinction secures for it an honorable place in the history of libraries in America.

The Athenæum has historical interest in other ways also. It is one of the oldest libraries in the United States, the oldest institution of its general class in the community, and perpetuates in itself one of the distinctive types of American libraries, a type no longer prevailing. The period of its life has been of exceptional importance; during its years great and notable changes have taken place in the organization, character and management of libraries, and in their place and function in the community. The Athenæum, covering as it does practically the entire period of library development in this country, is in one way and another illustrative of many of these changes. Again, by reason of its own direct influence in the intellectual life of the community and its character as the guardian and friend, if not actually the parent of kindred institutions in Salem, the Athenæum is

conspicuous in local history. Its history is thus, to an unusual degree, indicative of the course of library development in America, and expressive of the history of learning and culture in Salem.

OFFICERS OF THE SALEM ATHENÆUM

PRESIDENTS

Edward A. Holyoke,	1810-1829	George Choate,	1850-1864
Benjamin Pickman,	1829-1835	Alpheus Crosby,	1864-1874
Ichabod Tucker,	1835-1838	William Mack,	1874-1886
Daniel Appleton White,	1838-1840	Edmund B. Willson,	1886-1895
Benjamin Merrill,	1840-1847	Richard C. Manning,	1895-1904
Stephen C. Phillips,	1847-1850	Henry A. Hale,	1904-

CLERKS OF THE PROPRIETORS

John Sparhawk Appleton,	1810-1814	Wm. P. Richardson,	1841-1846
John Pickering,	1814-1819	Henry Wheatland,	1846-1891
John Glen King,	1819-1831	Charles S. Osgood,	1891-1895
Ebenezer Shillaber,	1831-1841	Joseph N. Ashton,	1895-

TREASURERS

William Shepard Gray,	1810-1818	Jonathan F. Worcester,	1851-1855
George Cleveland	1818-1824	Benjamin H. Silsbee,	1855-1856
Benjamin Merrill,	1824-1827	James Chamberlain,	1856-1865
Joseph A. Peabody,	1827-1828	Henry Wheatland,	1865-1866
George Peabody,	1828-1834	Nathaniel C. Robbins	1866-1876
John Moriarty,	1834-1835	Henry J. Cross,	1876-1879
Solomon S. Whipple,	1835-1839	Nathaniel C. Robbins,	1879-1880
Gideon Tucker,	1839-1846	Richard C. Manning,	1880-1889
John Clarke Lee,	1846-1849	Frederick P. Richardson,	1889-1907
Pickering Dodge,	1849-1850	Nathaniel A. Very,	1907-1914
Benjamin Barstow,	1850-1851	Ralph B. Harris,	1914-

The list of officers has been brought down to the date of publication.

TRUSTEES

Edward Augustus Holyoke,	1810-1829	Henry Wheatland,	1845-1855
John Dexter Treadwell,	1810-1824	Stephen C. Phillips,	1846-1852
Samuel Putnam,	1810-1821	Geo. Francis Chever,	1848-1852
Joseph Story,	1810-1830	Stephen P. Webb,	1849-1852
Nathaniel Silsbee,	1810-1827	Oliver Carlton,	1849-1856
Moses Little,	1810-1812	John Henry Silsbee,	1849-1856
Benjamin Lynde Oliver,	1810-1826	Jonathan F. Worcester,	1852-1856
Nathaniel Bowditch,	1810-1823	Benjamin Barstow,	1852-1861
John Pickering,	1810-1827	Nehemiah Brown, Jr.	1852-1854
Gideon Tucker,	1812-1822	William Mack,	1853-1886
Chas. Chauncey Clarke,	1821-1829	James Mason Hoppin,	1853-1859
John Glen King,	1822-1826	Wm. Dudley Pickman,	1854-1856
Benjamin Peirce,	1823-1827	James W. Chever,	1855-1857
Daniel Appleton White,	1824-1840	James Chamberlain,	1856-1871
Benjamin Merrill,	1826-1838	William S. Messervy,	1856-1886
Frederick Howes,	1826-1840	John Clarke Lee,	1856-1866
Benjamin Pickman,	1827-1835	Asahel Huntington,	1856-1864
Ichabod Tucker,	1827-1838	Henry Wheatland,	1857-1893
George Cleveland,	1827-1833	John L. Russell,	1859-1874
George Peabody,	1829-1840	George Andrews,	1861-1863
Malthus A. Ward,	1829-1832	Alpheus Crosby,	1863-1874
William Gibbs,	1830-1832	Joseph G. Waters,	1864-1879
Abel L. Peirson,	1832-1853	Nathaniel C. Robbins,	1864-1881
Stephen P. Webb,	1832-1840	Henry F. King,	1866-1876
Solomon S. Whipple,	1833-1839	Frederick W. Putnam,	1871-1887
Horatio Robinson,	1835-1840	Henry M. Brooks,	1874-1876
John Glen King,	1838-1839	Martha K. Crosby,	1876-1881
Thomas Cole,	1838-1840	Richard C. Manning,	1874-1904
George Choate,	1839-1864	William P. Upham,	1876-1886
William P. Richardson,	1839-1846	Thomas F. Hunt,	1879-1887
Benjamin Merrill,	1840-1847	Edmund B. Willson,	1881-1895
Leverett Saltonstall,	1840-1845	Frederick P. Richardson,	1881-1907
Asahel Huntington,	1840-1844	William Northey,	1886-1890
Francis Peabody,	1840-1849	George A. Perkins,	1886-1894
John Clarke Lee,	1840-1849	George P. Messervy,	1886-1889
Joseph Sebastian Cabot,	1840-1849	Wm. C. Endicott, Jr.	1887-1889
Elisha Mack,	1844-1853	Charles S. Osgood,	1887-1898
		Arthur L. Goodrich,	1890-1897

David Choate,	1890-1903	Richard Wheatland,	1904-1908
William O. Chapman,	1893-1908	Arthur W. West,	1905-
Thomas F. Hunt,	1893-1898	John S. Williams,	1905-1911
Joseph N. Ashton,	1894-	Nathaniel A. Very,	1907-1914
Gilbert L. Streeter,	1896-1901	Stephen W. Phillips,	1908-
Alden P. White,	1897-1911	William C. Waters, Jr.	1908-
William H. Gove,	1898-1905	John Robinson,	1911-
John Robinson,	1898-1905	George R. Lord,	1911-
George R. Jewett,	1902-	Ralph B. Harris,	1914-
Henry A. Hale,	1903-		

CLERKS OF THE TRUSTEES

John Pickering,	1810-1827	Henry Wheatland,	1840-1855
Benjamin Merrill,	1827-1832	J. F. Worcester,	1855-1856
Ichabod Tucker,	1832-1833	Henry J. Cross,	1856-1860
Solomon S. Whipple,	1833-1835	Henry Wheatland,	1860-1891
Horatio Robinson,	1835-1838	Charles S. Osgood,	1891-1895
Thomas Cole,	1838-1840	Joseph N. Ashton,	1895-1906*

* In 1906 the office of Clerk of the Trustees was united with that of Clerk of the Proprietors.

PROPRIETORS

1810 - 1910

Joseph Adams, 54	1853-1871	Gideon Barstow, 90	1818-1847
Caroline L. Allen, 43	1906-	Gorden Bartlett, 77	1859-1868
Andrew B. Almon, 90	1856-1864	Seth Bass, 89	1815-1819
Catherine Andrew, 63	1837-1850	94	1818-1821
John Andrew, 63	1822-1837	96	1821-1826
George Andrews, 41	1857-1896	John H. Batchelder, 28	1865-1882
John H. Andrews, 66	1818-1853	30	1856-1861
Joseph Andrews, 63	1851-1870	Eben Beckford, 61	1810-1818
Samuel Page Andrews, 1	1853-1897	Arthur F. Benson, 47	1907-
William P. Andrews, 100	1904-	Henry P. Benson, 54	1907-
Irving K. Annable, 18	1904-	Henry M. Bixby, 63	1907-
Henry Appleton, 41	1819-1824	Henry Blanchard, 20	1810-1814
John Appleton, 56	1831-1834	Nathaniel Bowditch, 2	1810-1824
John S. Appleton, 28	1810-1817	W. I. Bowditch, 86	1854-1856
83	1821-1825	Lucy H. Bowdoin, 42	1899-1903
Joseph F. Appleton, 97	1906-	W. L. Bowdoin, 96	1863-1883
Nathaniel Appleton, 41	1810-1819	George P. Bradford, 86	1856-1859
Augustus J. Archer, 31	1843-1846	George W. Briggs, 92	1853-1868
Jacob Ashton, 8	1810-1837	Robert Brookhouse, 41	1840-1848
Joseph N. Ashton, 86	1892-	Robert Brookhouse, 92	1868-1885
Susan Ashton, 8	1837-1857	Henry M. Brooks, 60	1857-1861
William Ashton, 59	1810-1826	Henry M. Brooks, 82	1868-1896
William F. Ashton, 86	1876-1892	William Augustus Brooks, 76	1852-
Eleazer Austin, 7	1853-1882	Benjamin B. Brown, 72	1860-1864
Theodore D. Bacon, 67	1909-	Charles Alva Brown, 52	1909-
Joseph Baker, 80	1810-1816	Charles D. Brown, 52	1902-1909
William T. Balch, 45	1854-1854	C. F. W. Brown, 41	1849-1852
Thomas P. Bancroft, 4	1810-1843	J. Vincent Brown, 74	1860-1861
John Barr, 60	1810-1827	Nehemiah Brown, 32	1840-1846
Benjamin Barstow, 39	1845-1895	55	1837-1838
Benjamin Barstow, 85	1885-1888	Nehemiah Brown, Jr., 3	1850-1856

The number after the proprietor's name is that of the share held by him.

Albert G. Browne, 18	1833-1843	81	1850-1853
Benjamin F. Browne, 29	1835-1837	90	1853-1856
Edward C. Browne, 99	1908-	James Cook, 46	1812-1828
Timothy Bryant, 91	1823-1826	Frank Cousins, 41	1896-1898
James R. Buffum, 27	1825-1827	Benjamin Cox, 49	1831-1843
Susan Burley, 97	1826-1841	Benjamin Cox, Jr., 83	1844-1899
John Cabot, 45	1810-1812	Samuel P. Crocker, 22	1853-1858
John Cabot, Jr., 46	1810-1812	Alpheus Crosby, 9	1859-1876
Rebecca Cabot, 33	1810-1885	Martha K. Crosby, 9	1876-1881
William Cabot, 24	1810-1830	Henry J. Cross, 81	1871-1879
Oliver Carlton, 31	1846-1857	Benjamin W. Crowninshield, 62	1810-1834
54	1836-1846	John Crowninshield, 63	1810-1820
James Chamberlain, 68	1840-1906	David Cummings, 61	1820-1823
Wm. O. Chapman, 37	1890-	James B. Curwen, 16	1840-1841
66	1905-1907	Thomas C. Cushing, 27	1810-1825
Philip Chase, 96	1826-1828	Crombie Street Society, 6	1834-1843
Stephen A. Chase, 32	1846-1875	Crombie Street Church, 71	1860-
William H. Chase, 16	1841-1844	First Baptist Church, 44	1835-
James W. Chever, 9	1839-1859	Howard Street Church, 29	1837-1840
Thomas Chisholm, 43	1849-1886	Independent Congregational	
Wallace A. Chisholm, 92	1905-	Church (Barton Square), 17	1858-1906
Amos Choate, 95	1824-1858	Second Church, 17	1906-
David Choate, 48	1868-	Tabernacle Church, 82	1833-1845
George Choate, 23	1838-1869	Tabernacle Church, 75	1881-
Rufus Choate, 37	1831-1838	Tucker Daland, 3	1856-1861
William P. Choate, 47	1861-1868	41	1824-1840
Charles C. Clark, 51	1817-1838	John B. Davis, 86	1818-1820
Dexter Clapp, 30	1861-1868	James Day, 94	1821-1824
John Clark, 41	1848-1849	William Dean, 82	1810-1833
George Cleveland, 39	1810-1840	William Dean, 74	1844-1844
William Cleveland, 5	1826-1842	Thorndike Deland, 25	1828-1837
John Clifton, 66	1853-1856	Thorndike Deland, 78	1828-1828
Joseph Cloutman, 23	1833-1834	Elizabeth H. Derby, 15	1844-1853
Joseph P. Cloutman, 12	1871-1899	Ezekiel Hersey Derby, 53	1811-1843
Henry Cogswell, 49	1843-1853		
Caroline J. Cole, 65	1868-		
Thomas Cole, 25	1837-1880		
27	1827-1831		
Horace L. Connolly, 5	1842-1844		

John Derby, 6	1810-1834	William Fabens, 71	1842-1847
Samuel G. Derby, 51	1810-1817	Joseph Farnum, 47	1852-1861
Julian d'Este, 90	1901-	Herbert C. Farwell, 77	1905-1907
James Devereux, 2	1841-1848	John G. Felt, 65	1853-1860
Humphrey Devereux, 57		Joseph B. Felt, 83	1817-1820
	1810-1840	John W. Fenno, 93	1821-1833
Benjamin Dodge, 19	1810-1835	Joseph E. Fisk, 79	1840-1850
John Dodge, 64	1812-1822	Sylvester P. Fogg, 41	1852-1857
Joshua Dodge, 64	1810-1812	Caleb Foote, 26	1860-1895
Larkin Dodge, 31	1810-1813	John Forrester, 68	1820-1835
Pickering Dodge, 12	1810-1835	Henry Gardner, 37	1845-1890
Pickering Dodge, 97	1841-1856	John Gardner, Jr., 32	1817-1837
Elizabeth A. Downie, 51		6	1843-1849
	1853-1896	Jonathan Gardner, 56	1810-1822
Andrew Dunlap, 61	1818-1820	Richard Gardner, 32	1810-1817
John Dwyer, 86	1859-1876	Richard Gardner, Jr., 32	1817-1840
Theodore Eames, 31	1814-1817	83	1820-1821
Ephraim Emerton, 94	1831-1832	William F. Gardner, 56	1822-1831
James Emerton, 54	1871-1878	Thomas P. Gentlee, 2	1848-1883
Robert Emery, 14	1810-1820	William Gibbs, 30	1810-1847
Caroline O. Emmerton, 2		Shepard D. Gilbert, 11	1895-
	1903-	Lydia D. Gillis, 16	1855-1899
Charles M. Endicott, 36	1844-1861	Emily A. Glover, 85	1888-1889
Samuel Endicott, 87	1814-1828	Arthur L. Goodrich, 96	1883-1896
William C. Endicott, Trustee, 2		William H. Gove, 35	1898-
	1886-1897	George W. Grant, 83	1906-
William C. Endicott, 15		William Shepard Gray, 50	
	1857-1880		1810-1819
Wm. C. Endicott, Jr., 15	1893-	William E. Greeley, 96	1854-1863
91	1886-1897	Alfred Greenleaf, 45	1828-1837
William P. Endicott, 6	1849-1868	Nathaniel Griffen, 43	1849-1849
Essex Institute, 47	1868-1907	Isaiah Hacker, 28	1817-1821
62	1879-1907	William E. Hacker, 10	1831-1836
42	1903-1907	28	1821-1836
Benjamin Fabens, Jr., 28		Daniel B. Hagar, 35	1878-1898
	1840-1841	Henry A. Hale, 46	1892-
Benjamin H. Fabens, 99		Mary S. Hale, 34	1904-
	1906-1907	George B. Harris, 52	1899-1902
Francis A. Fabens, 28	1841-1847	Howard P. Harris, 96	1903-
Rebecca C. Fabens, 99	1907-1908	Ralph B. Harris, 6	1901-

Walter C. Harris, 42	1907-	Henry P. Ives, 81	1879-1879
N. W. Hassen, 84	1851-1868	Stephen B. Ives, 28	1845-1846
L. B. Hatch, 74	1861-1885	Stephen B. Ives, Jr., 64	1865-1891
Benjamin H. Hathorne, 65	1810-1824	John Jenks, 66	1810-1818
Nathaniel Hathorne, 73	1828-1839	William M. Jelly, 60	1909-
Nathaniel Hawthorne, 91	1848-1850	George R. Jewett, 12	1899-
Ralph Cushing Hayward, 9	1909-	Holten B. Jewett, 4	1907-
William P. Hayward, 9	1881-1909	Edwin Jocelyn, 4	1843-1886
Charles H. Higbee, 81	1866-1871	Mary E. W. Jocelyn, 4	1886-1894
62	1875-1879	Emery Walter Johnson, 31	1907-
George Hodges, 37	1820-1827	Samuel Johnson, 42	1840-1883
Jonathan Hodges, 5	1810-1826	Gardner M. Jones, 52	1894-1899
John Hodges, 89	1852-1882	Eleanor B. Kimball, 50	1903-1906
Mary O. Hodges, 89	1882-	Eliphalet Kimball, 31	1813-1814
Amory Holbrook, 82	1845-1854	91	1818-1823
Edward A. Holyoke, 18	1810-1833	Ruth P. S. Kimball, 78	1889-1900
James Mason Hoppin, 71	1853-1860	Leonard Kimball, 53	1810-1811
Frederick Howes, 22	1816-1853	Daniel P. King, 93	1842-1851
12	1835-1835	Henry F. King, 31	1857-1904
William B. Howes, 82	1854-1868	James King, 48	1810-1816
Oliver Hubbard, 63	1820-1822	John G. King, 48	1816-1868
Oliver Hubbard, 16	1842-1854	John Glen King, 68	1835-1836
William P. Hubon, 55	1899-	John Kinsman, 15	1853-1857
Thomas F. Hunt, 90	1864-1899	Albert Lackey, 43	1847-1849
42	1883-1899	Edward Lander, 38	1810-1828
67	1889-1899	William A. Lander, 91	1840-1848
85	1889-1899	Edward S. Lang, 29	1810-1835
79	1896-1899	George D. Latimer, 31	1904-1907
Asahel Huntington, 55	1838-1895	Charles Lawrence, 67	1853-1856
Arthur L. Huntington, 55	1895-1899	Osborne Leach, 70	1897-
Grace Hutchinson, 4	1894-1907	William Leavitt, 39	1840-1845
John J. Hutchinson, 72	1852-1860	Francis H. Lee, 20	1905-
Alpheus Hyatt, 10	1868-1874	John C. Lee, 20	1832-1905
George H. Ingersoll, 34	1810-1815	George Leeds, 80	1853-1860
Susan Ingersoll, 37	1827-1829	David M. Little, 41	1898-
		Moses Little, 1	1810-1819
		Philip Little, 13	1904-
		George R. Lord, 21	1900-
		Nathaniel J. Lord, 26	1829-1860

Nathaniel J. Lord, 21	1835-1836	George Nichols, 71	1810-1827
Octavius I. Lord, 26	1827-1829	Henry Nichols, 70	1826-1828
George B. Loring, 13	1865-1896	John H. Nichols, 79	1852-1867
Seth Low, 67	1810-1813	Mary W. Nichols, 57	1882-
Elisha Mack, 38	1828-1899	Edward Norris, 83	1811-1817
Mary Manning, 73	1827-1828	William Northey, 32	1875-
Rebecca B. Manning, 58	1902-	Susan S. Northend, 64	1891-
Richard C. Manning, 5	1866-	Annie A. Noyes, 77	1907-1909
Robert Manning, 58	1871-1902	Daniel P. Noyes, 94	1841-1842
William Manning, 74	1820-1828	Caleb Oaks, 96	1828-1839
Daniel H. Mansfield, 60	1861-1876	Charles Odell, 97	1895-1898
William Mansfield, 68	1810-1820	Charles H. Odell, 50	1895-1897
Wm. P. McMullan, 16	1906-	David Oliphant, 97	1823-1826
Benjamin Merrill, 1	1819-1853	Benjamin L. Oliver, 21	1810-1835
	19 1835-1836	Benjamin L. Oliver, Jr., 94	
David Merritt, 64	1840-1843		1824-1826
George P. Messervy, 53	1886-1907	Grace A. Oliver, 50	1897-1903
William S. Messervy, 53	1855-1886	Henry K. Oliver, 27	1831-1843
E. C. Millett, 28	1853-1856	Josiah Orne, 72	1810-1826
Joseph Monds, 65	1838-1841	Samuel Orne, 10	1817-1819
John Moriarty, 46	1828-1837	William Orne, 10	1810-1817
Edward S. Morse, 80	1885-1886	George Osborn, 93	1833-1843
	84 1868-1871	Charles Osgood, 29	1854-1903
Frederick C. Munroe, 66		Charles S. Osgood, 28	1882-1907
	1907-	Elizabeth W. Osgood, 28	
Reuben D. Mussey, 22	1810-1816		1907-
D. A. Neal, 69	1850-1907	George Osgood, 95	1820-1824
D. A., W. H. & N. W. Neal, 69		George P. Osgood, 3	1863-
	1838-1839	Joseph Osgood, 93	1851-1861
Jonathan Neal, 69	1839-1850	Joseph B. F. Osgood, 30	
Jonathan Neal, Jr., 69	1810-1838		1876-
Sarah Neal, 53	1853-1855	Robert Osgood, 29	1903-
Theodore A. Neal, 50	1849-1858	Thomas B. Osgood, 45	1812-1818
Ezra F. Newhall, 30	1868-1876	John Page, 94	1832-1839
Gilbert G. Newhall, 29	1840-1840	Nathaniel Page, 50	1819-1822
Isaac Newhall, 93	1818-1820	Charles W. Palfray, 73	1839-1885
	42 1832-1836	William W. Palfray, 78	1834-1837
Sarah Orne Newhall, 78	1874-1889	John Brooks Parker, 50	1858-1895
Andrew Nichols, 80	1816-1853	Mary E. Parker, 81	1907-
Benjamin R. Nichols, 70	1810-1828	Dubois D. Parmelee, 65	1860-1868

Edward H. Payson, 44	1828-1835	Lucy W. Perry, 8	1906-
Edward H. Payson, 19	1841-1850	Anna P. Phillips, 23	1904-
Peabody Academy of Science		James Duncan Phillips, 77	
2	1897-1903		1909-
13	1896-1904	Stephen Phillips, 85	1814-1838
18	1878-1904	Stephen C. Phillips, 85	1838-1885
23	1896-1904	Stephen W. Phillips, 91	1906-
33	1885-1905	Willard P. Phillips, 93	1861-1885
34	1896-1904	George D. Phippen, 34	1865-1896
43	1886-1906	Walter G. Phippen, 68	1906-
51	1896-1906	Henry Pickering, 26	1810-1827
59	1896-1904	John Pickering, Jr., 16	1810-1827
66	1886-1905	John Pickering, 6	1868-1901
73	1885-1906	Octavius Pickering, 26	1827-1829
74	1885-1906	Sarah W. Pickering, 6	1901-1901
Alfred Peabody, 52	1853-1894	Benjamin Pickman, 13	1810-1820
Anna P. Peabody, 22	1876-1909	Benjamin Pickman, Jr., 15	
Francis Peabody, 59	1826-1896		1810-1844
George Peabody, 87	1828-1899	Benjamin Pickman, 94	1866-1878
Henry W. Peabody, 60	1876-	Dudley L. Pickman, 58	1810-1871
Jeremiah Peabody, 67	1814-1820	Dudley L. Pickman, 16	1899-1906
Joseph Peabody, 36	1810-1844	Francis W. Pickman, 95	
Joseph A. Peabody, 64	1832-1840		1858-1866
Joseph W. Peabody, 31	1828-1843	Love R. Pickman, 13	1858-1865
Nathaniel Peabody, 37	1819-1820	Thomas Pickman, 37	1810-1819
S. Endicott Peabody, 23	1869-1896	William Pickman, 13	1820-1858
J. Willard Peele, 74	1858-1860	W. R. Pickman, 80	1860-1865
Willard Peele, 9	1812-1839	Nathan Pierce, 67	1856-1889
Benjamin Peirce, 73	1810-1827	Charles H. Pierce, 37	1841-1845
Charles W. Peirce, 31	1844-1845	William B. Pike, 91	1850-1868
Jerathmael Peirce, 44	1810-1828	Anna P. Pingree, 22	1858-1876
Abel L. Peirson, 67	1820-1863	David Pingree, 14	1899-
E. B. Peirson, 45	1854-1908	Harriet E. Pingree, 74	1906-
Edward L. Peirson, 45	1908-	Ernestus A. Plummer, 86	
Edward L. Perkins, 64	1853-1865		1814-1818
George A. Perkins, 49	1853-		86 1820-1854
Jonathan C. Perkins, 51	1838-1850	Ruth Porter, 67	1813-1814
Nathaniel B. Perkins, 23		Frederick G. Pousland, 62	
	1834-1838		1907-
Jairus W. Perry, 8	1857-1906	William C. Prescott, 5	1859-1866

Joseph Price, 72	1864-	Nathan Robinson, 47	1810-1840
Mary D. Price, 82	1906-	John W. Rogers, 16	1827-1840
Mary E. Price, 36	1906-	Nathaniel L. Rogers, 29	1841-1843
Richard Price, 36	1861-1906	Richard S. Rogers, 75	1815-1843
John Prince, Jr., 52	1810-1847		18 1857-1878
John W. Proctor, 72	1826-1846	William J. Rolfe, 3	1861-1863
William Proctor, 83	1825-1828	John Bertram Ropes, 33	1905-
Eben Putnam, 74	1810-1820	Benjamin W. Russell, 91	1868-1886
37	1837-1840	William H. Russell, 78	1837-1874
Ebenezer Putnam, 20	1830-1832	James O. Safford, 7	1882-1907
81	1833-1837	Samuel A. Safford, 5	1844-1859
Francis Putnam, 16	1841-1841	William O. Safford and	
Fred'k W. Putnam, 95	1866-1907	William Perry, Trustees, 7	
80	1868-1885		1907-
63	1872-1907	Salem Athenæum	
Rufus Putnam, 30	1846-1856	9 1836-1844	53 1843-1843
94	1844-1845	27 1843-1854	65 1847-1853
Samuel Putnam, 54	1810-1835	39 1895-1897	72 1849-1852
W. H. A. Putnam, 63	1870-1872	47 1850-1852	79 1850-1852
Joseph F. Quinn, 59	1904-	52 1847-1853	94 1862-1866
Edith Rantoul, 69	1907-	64 1843-1843	21 1836-1840
William G. Rantoul, 85	1906-	71 1847-1853	29 1843-1854
Charles S. Rea, 79	1899-	76 1850-1852	45 1843-1854
Charles W. Richardson, 26		90 1847-1853	51 1850-1852
	1895-	12 1836-1840	63 1850-1851
Eunice Richardson, 50	1832-1849	28 1836-1840	68 1836-1840
Frederick P. Richardson, 54		42 1836-1840	75 1843-1853
	1878-1907	50 1849-1858	89 1847-1852
95	1907-	79 1837-1830	
31	1907-1907	Leverett Saltonstall, 43	1810-1847
William P. Richardson, 84			20 1814-1816
	1813-1851	Nathaniel Saltonstall, 94	1826-1831
Fred G. Robbins, 78	1900-	Charles Saunders, 11	1810-1815
Nathaniel C. Robbins, 75			20 1816-1830
	1853-1881	John Saunders, 75	1810-1815
David Roberts, 81	1837-1850	Mary Ann Saunders, 11	1858-1895
Horatio Robinson, 47	1840-1850	Thomas Saunders, 11	1815-1858
John Robinson, 56	1837-1847	Ezekiel Savage, 55	1810-1837
John Robinson, 10	1874-	Francis A. Seamans, 38	1899-
93	1885-1886	John H. Sears, 2	1883-1886

Joseph Shatswell, 18	1853-1857	George Torrey, 83	1828-1829
Henry F. Shepard, 80	1865-1868	Rosina C. Towne, 83	1899-1906
John D. Shepard, 18	1853-1853	Moses Townsend, 76	1810-1827
Michael Shepard, 74	1828-1858	Ephraim Treadwell, 90	1815-1818
T. Osborne Shepard, 98	1904-	John D. Treadwell, 17	1810-1858
Ebenezer Shillaber, 76	1827-1850	John W. Treadwell, 42	1817-1831
Mary D. Shreve, 51	1906-	Walter H. Trumbull, 67	1899-1909
Benjamin H. Silsbee, 61	1852-1880	Benjamin Tucker, 83	1829-1836
Elizabeth J. Silsbee, 61	1880-1904	Gideon Tucker, 35	1810-1861
Elizabeth W. Silsbee, 61	1904-	Jonathan Tucker, 35	1861-1878
John B. Silsbee, 60	1854-1857	Ichabod Tucker, 77	1810-1855
John H. Silsbee, 21	1840-1891		42 1835-1836
Nathaniel Silsbee, 3	1810-1850		79 1836-1836
Mary Silsbee, 61	1837-1852		83 1836-1844
William Silsbee, 61	1827-1837	Samuel Tucker, 14	1820-1858
William H. Silsbee, 21	1891-1900	Charles W. Upham, 56	1853-1876
Zachariah F. Silsbee, 60	1827-1854	William P. Upham, 56	1876-1908
Augustus A. Smith, 77	1855-1857	Luther Upton, 19	1840-1842
Caleb A. Smith, 94	1839-1841	Robert Upton, 71	1827-1835
Jesse Smith, Jr., 62	1834-1875	Roger Upton, 85	1899-1906
J. Foster Smith, 95	1909-	Roger Upton, 94	1907-
Annie Snell, 79	1882-1896	Samuel Upton, 78	1810-1828
Nicholas T. Snell, 79	1867-1882	George F. Very, 53	1907-
Edward Southwick, 89	1819-1847	Nathaniel A. Very, 50	1906-
Josiah Spaulding, 14	1858-1899	Washington Very, 51	1852-1853
Thomas Spencer, 65	1833-1838	Martha P. Walcott, 19	1856-1882
Joseph E. Sprague, 54	1835-1839	Samuel B. Walcott, 19	1850-1856
Joseph E. Sprague, 54	1846-1853	Samuel P. Walcott, 19	1882-1890
Joseph G. Sprague, 37	1829-1831	Thomas Wallis, 16	1854-1855
Joseph G. Sprague, 65	1841-1847	John Walsh, 78	1828-1834
Henry S. Stearns, 90	1899-1901	George A. Ward, 93	1820-1821
William Stearns, 81	1810-1833	Joshua H. Ward, 57	1840-1853
Arthur R. Stone, 66	1885-1886	Mrs. Joshua Ward, 57	1853-1882
John Stone, 2	1824-1841	Joseph C. Ward, 61	1823-1827
John H. Stone, 45	1854-1854	Malthus A. Ward, 65	1824-1833
Robert Stone, 70	1828-1897	William Ward, 9	1810-1812
Joseph Story, 49	1810-1831	Henry Wardwell, 19	1890-
Gilbert L. Streeter, 81	1879-1907	Benjamin P. Ware, 66	1856-1885
Harry Sutton, 65	1908-	James D. Waters, 40	1886-1907
Larkin Thorndike, 12	1840-1871	John G. Waters, 81	1853-1866

Joseph Waters, 40	1810-1836	Richard Henry Wheatland, 28	
Joseph G. Waters, 24	1830-1880		1860-1865
Joseph Linton Waters, 24		Stephen G. Wheatland, 88	
	1880-1907		1857-1893
Mary Devereux Waters, 24		Ebenezer Wheelwright, 94	
	1907-		1843-1844
Mary E. Waters, 27	1906-1908	Augustus W. Whipple, 71	
Richard P. Waters, 27	1854-1906		1835-1836
Sarah J. Waters, 27	1908-	Edwin P. Whipple, 71	1843-1843
William C. Waters, 40	1886-1907	Henry Whipple, 34	1815-1817
Willaim C. Waters, Jr., 40			94 1845-1862
	1907-	Jonathan Whipple, 56	1849-1853
William D. Waters, 40	1837-1886	Solomon S. Whipple, 91	
Jonathan Webb, 34	1827-1834		1826-1840
Samuel Webb, Jr., 34	1817-1826	Alden P. White, 39	1897-
	34 1834-1865	Daniel A. White, 10	1820-1841
Stephen Webb, 92	1818-1853		95 1819-1820
Stephen P. Webb, 28	1835-1836		26 1860-1860
Arthur W. West, 1	1897-	Henry White, Jr., 42	1810-1817
George West, 28	1847-1853	John White, 79	1810-1814
George West, 73	1906-	Joseph White, Jr., 25	1810-1828
Nathaniel West, 7	1810-1853	Stephen White, 23	1810-1833
Nathaniel West, Jr., 79	1814-1830	John S. Williams, 96	1839-1854
Thomas B. West, 71	1836-1842	John S. Williams, 80	1904-
William H. West, 79	1833-1836	Henry L. Williams, 28	1856-1860
Eliza Wetmore, 10	1819-1820	Tucker D. Williams, 93	1906-
Ann Maria Wheatland, 88		Lemuel Willis, 56	1834-1837
	1893-	Edmund B. Willson, 15	1880-1893
George Wheatland, 88	1827-1854		25 1880-1906
	88 1855-1857	Lucy B. Willson, 25	1906
Henry Wheatland, 88	1854-1855	John Winn, Jr., 45	1818-1828
	97 1856-1895	John Winn, 45	1837-1843
	46 1870-1891	Oliver A. Woodbury, 94	1842-1843
	94 1878-1907	Jonathan F. Worcester, 46	
Trustee, 77	1868-1886		1837-1879
Mary K. Wheatland, 84	1905-	Joseph E. Worcester, 31	
Richard Wheatland, 88	1815-1827		1817-1828
Richard Wheatland, 87	1899-		

* Some interesting facts are to be found in this list of proprietors. In the first place, two shares have been in the same families for the entire hundred years. Share Forty, originally in the name of Joseph Waters, is now held by his great grandson, William C. Waters, Jr.; and Share Sixty-nine, issued to Jonathan Neal, Jr. in 1810, is now owned by his great granddaughter, Miss Edith Rantoul.

In distinguished names the list is exceptional. Three stand out conspicuously: Hawthorne in literature, Bowditch in science, and Story in the law. But there are other names in the list having more than local distinction. John Pickering, a founder and member of the board of trustees from 1810 to 1827,—and a most active one,—was an eminent linguist, philologist, and Classical scholar. Joseph E. Worcester, the lexicographer, a teacher in Salem for a time in his early years, was a proprietor from 1817 to 1826. Benjamin W. Crowninshield, Secretary of the Navy under President Madison, was one of the original proprietors; and Rufus Choate, famous as lawyer, pleader, and orator, was a shareholder from 1831 to 1838. Two who were proprietors in the early years of the Athenæum subsequently held important library positions: Benjamin Peirce, (father of the celebrated mathematician and Harvard professor of the same name), a proprietor from 1810 to 1827, was librarian of Harvard College from 1827 to 1831; and Seth Bass, a proprietor from 1815 to 1826, was from 1825 to 1846 the librarian of the Boston Athenæum. William J. Rolfe, the Shakespearian scholar and editor, who, like Dr. Worcester, was a teacher in Salem in his early years, was a proprietor from 1861 to 1863. In science Alpheus Hyatt and Frederick W. Putnam have held high places, the former as curator of the Boston Society of Natural History and professor of Zoölogy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University, and the latter as professor of Anthropology and Ethnology at Harvard. It will be noticed that Hawthorne when first a proprietor spelled his name in the old family form,—Hathorne.

An interesting fact of still another sort has been discovered in compiling this list. It is that Dr. Mack, who was a trustee from

1853 to 1886 and president from 1874 to 1886, never had a share in his own name. Share Thirty-eight stood in Dr. Mack's father's name, Elisha Mack, from 1828 to 1899, and was never transferred to the son. When, in 1899, this share emerged from the estate of Thomas F. Hunt, it created considerable perplexity. Mr. Hunt had paid the assessment on it as long as anyone then connected with the Athenæum could remember; the certificate had been lost; and in the stock book, which runs back to 1835, there was no entry whatever of a transfer of Share Thirty-eight. The matter has been cleared up, and the above-mentioned curious fact discovered, by aid of the Treasurer's book covering the years from 1810 to 1875. In 1899 this book was in a fireproof room of the Essex Institute for safe keeping, and its existence was then unknown to the Athenæum authorities. It has been indispensable in making the list of early proprietors.

A further examination of the list of proprietors and officers shows that there is another instance of a person serving as an officer without having a share in his own name,—Dr. Henry Wheatland, in his early connection with the institution. Though a trustee from 1845 and clerk of the proprietors for forty-five years beginning with 1846, his name does not appear as a stockholder earlier than 1854. Apparently the manner of conducting the Athenæum as a corporation was in those days as informal as that of using its rooms and books, described on page 15. Dr. Mack and Dr. Wheatland, it should be noted, were connected with the management of the Library and served as officers longer than any other persons in its entire history.

ACT OF INCORPORATION

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN PERSONS BY THE NAME OF
"THE SALEM ATHENÆUM."

SECTION I. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by authority of the same,* That Edward Augustus Holyoke, William Orne, Moses Little, John D. Treadwell, John Pickering, jun., Benjamin L. Oliver, Leverett Saltonstall, Nathaniel Silsbee, and Samuel Putman, together with all other persons who are or shall become members of the said Association, be, and they hereby are, incorporated by the name of *The Proprietors of the Salem Athenæum*, and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in all or any courts of law, and elsewhere, in all manner of actions, pleas, and controversies whatsoever; and in their said corporate capacity, and by their said name, they and their successors shall be capable in law to purchase, receive, have, hold, take, possess, and enjoy, in fee-simple or otherwise, lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments, not exceeding in the whole the yearly value of two thousand dollars, exclusive of the building or buildings which may be actually occupied or used for literary purposes. And the said Corporation and their successors shall be capable of taking, receiving, and holding, by donation, subscription, bequest or otherwise, money, goods, chattels, effects, and credits, to an amount, the yearly value of which shall not exceed three thousand dollars, exclusive of their books, so that the estate aforesaid shall be appropriated for the promotion of literature, of the arts and sciences, and not otherwise. And the said Corporation and their successors shall have power to give, grant, sell, alien, convey, exchange, or lease, any part of their lands, tenements, or other property, for the benefit and advantage of said Corporation.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said Corporation may have a common seal for their use and benefit, with full power to alter, change, or renew it when they shall think the same expedient.

SECT. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That the said Corporation shall have power to determine when and where their meetings shall be holden, and the manner of notifying and calling the same ; and power to choose such officers, with such powers as they shall judge expedient; and to make By-Laws for the due government of said Corporation, and for the due and orderly conducting the affairs thereof, and for and concerning all matters and things relating to said Corporation, and the same at pleasure to alter and amend, or repeal. Provided, however, that the powers vested in their said officers, and the said By-Laws, shall not be repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth.

SECT. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That the proprietors of said Corporation shall have the power to impose suitable fines, not exceeding five dollars, for the non-fulfilment or breach of the same By-Laws. And the said Corporation shall have a suitable remedy, by action, to recover such fines in any court of law proper to try the same.

SECT. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That whenever any proprietor shall neglect or refuse to pay any assessment duly imposed upon his share or shares in said Corporation, for the space of sixty days after the time set for the payment thereof, the Treasurer of said Corporation is hereby authorized to sell at public vendue the share or shares of such delinquent proprietor, after duly notifying, in some newspaper printed in the town of Salem, the sum due on such share or shares, and the time and place of sale, at least thirty days before the time of sale; and such sale shall be a sufficient transfer of the share or shares so sold to the purchaser; and, upon producing a certificate of such sale from the Treasurer, such purchaser shall be entitled to a transfer of the share or shares so sold, on the books of the Corporation, and shall be considered to all intents and purposes the proprietor thereof; and the overplus of such sale, if any there be, after payment of such assessment and incidental charges, shall be paid on demand, by such Treasurer, to the person whose share or shares were sold, as before provided.

SECT. 6. *Be it further enacted,* That Edward Augustus Holyoke,

William Orne, Nathaniel Silsbee, and Samuel Putman, or any three of the same, shall have power to call the first meeting of said proprietors, by advertising the same, three weeks successively before the time of such meeting, in some newspaper printed in the town of Salem; and that, at the same meeting, the said proprietors may proceed to execute any or all the powers vested in them by this act.

In the House of Representatives, March 5, 1810

This Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

TIMOTHY BIGELOW, *Speaker*.

In Senate, March 6, 1810.

This Bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

H. G. OTIS, *President*.

Approved, March 6, 1810.

C. GORE

Secretary's Office, March 12, 1810.

A true copy of the original Act.

WILLIAM TUDOR, *Secretary of State*.

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